

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are currently pending. There is no claim 3 as indicated under item No. 6 on the Official Action Summary.

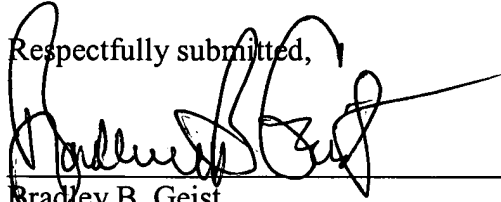
On the merits, claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,506,532 (Anbe) for the reason set forth in item 2 on page 2 of the Official Action and not herein repeated.

By this amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite the use of, or means for calculating an "additional value Δv_L " which is calculated by means of a neural network. It is Applicants' contention that the Anbe reference neither discloses or suggests the use of a neural network in calculating an addition value (Δv_L) for use in setting the rolling velocity of a rolling stand during the rolling of the transition piece of the metal strip. Support for the present amendment is found in the specification at pages 3 and 4 ([0006] - [0008]). Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced with the pending claims.

Applicants note that the PTO's "Attorney Docket No." is not correct and should be changed to A34859 PCT USA.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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